Depot Town Rag

Volume 18, Number 1 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. P.O. Box 970-235, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

METRO edition DTA ***

100% FREE Rag Content

- Huron Hotel
- **DDA weeder**
- Personals?
- Contentiousness
- Train Trips north
- **Circus lingo**
- **Eddie Guest strikes again**

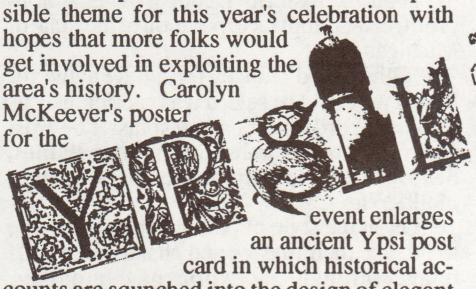
and other strictly local stuff. . . .

Summer in a small city...

... hometown parades, shorts and sandals, tank tops, waving at cars without getting arrested, UV sunglasses, hats with visors in the front for a change, beach towels and sun screen, sidewalk cafés, great music on Frog Island, walking your bike on the sidewalk for safety, dogs waiting patiently in the shade, window shopping, weeding and watering, iced tea, delicious streetside conversations, watching the weather, picnics, feeding the ducks at the park, worrying about the old depot's condition, waxing the car, watching the trains go by, getting ready for the Yesterfesters, catching up on winter worries and stories, sittin' in the sunshine ...
... down in Ypsi's old Depot Town.

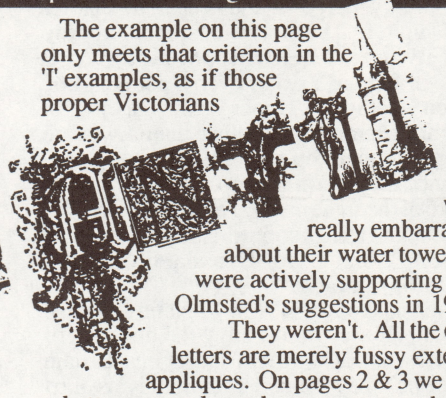
Old images sought for Heritage Fest theme

Festival planners chose the broadest possible theme for this year's celebration with hopes that more folks would get involved in exploiting the area's history. Carolyn McKeever's poster for the

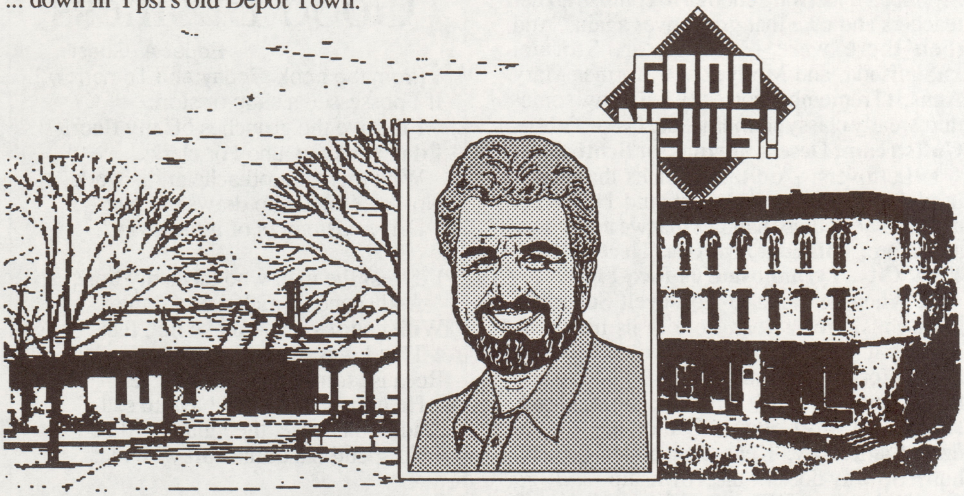


event enlarges an ancient Ypsi post card in which historical accounts are squnched into the design of elegant lettering spelling out "Ypsilanti".

The example on this page only meets that criterion in the 'I' examples, as if those proper Victorians



were really embarrassed about their water tower and were actively supporting R.O. Olmsted's suggestions in 1913. They weren't. All the other letters are merely fussy exterior appliques. On pages 2 & 3 we offer a better example and encourage readers to send in their 'images' for the August issue.



Could TV's 'This Old House' host save Depot Town's Thompson Block and MCRR Depot? Maybe. Maybe not.

PARODY INTERVIEW: What would Bob Vila do?

Rag: "Are these two properties worth fighting for?"

Bob Vila: "Why, this is a super opportunity for all of us! My architect suggests we take the roof off the old depot and park some damaged rail cars around it. Burning gas jets after dark will simulate previous fires and wrecks and you'll have a Historic Attraction on your hands. Excellent! ...an *in-situ*, almost-real-life, semi-historic landmark theme-park. Hey! It worked in Gettysburg; why not in Ypsilanti? Terrific! Six Flags over Ypsilanti! It's terrific!"

"Hey, besides, you guys, the milk train doesn't stop here any more. Lighten up. Super!"

Rag: "Then, what could you, Norm Abrams, and the crew do with the Thompson Block? Another romantic ruin?"

Bob: "Another terrific project for our client! And it's a heck of a lot simpler than our current run of TV programs on California wineries! We're going to turn it into an in-town retirement home for former City Attorneys who have lost it in litigation over the years. They won't need much in the way of comforts — they're attorneys."

Rag: "How long should a project like this take, Bob?"

Bob: "Two weeks. In half-hour intervals. Including commercials. What a deal! Terrific!"

Identity Crisis Alert! Who do they think they are?

A new name for the Township . . .

A recent edition of weekly the Ypsilanti *Courier* wondered in large-enough-type-for-the-almost-blind why Ypsi Township officials never used their governmental appellation in their recent slicker to the residents. Was Township Clerk Brenda Stumbo actually thinking about dropping their fine Greek heritage in the style of the Radisson Resort (On The Lake) and Saint Joseph - who changed his named to Catherine McAuley, his address and ZIP to Ann Arbor, and is now courting U Hospital in the most exciting engagement in med/biz history? Could be!

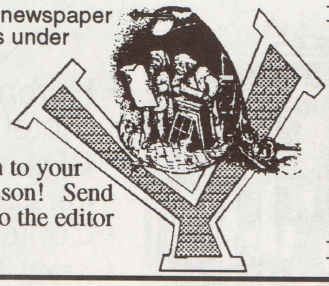
In a May issue, *Ypsi Press* managing editor Tonly Dearing noted, "Stumbo insists township officials aren't pushing the idea." Apparently the *Courier* is but, since they so seldom print our letters, we'll put them here and they can lift the item if they run out of copy next week.

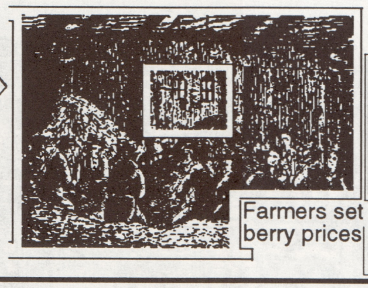
• "What's in a (fine old Greek war hero's) name?" pondered Will Shakespeare. Could the England of his day have been divisive as ours? Ypsilantians so like to argue their points of view that this topic ought to be as hot as Greek Theater, Historic Preservation, Huron Indians, or a trash-lined boulevard in the downtown district. C'mon, readers and thinkers; lets get those letters sent in!

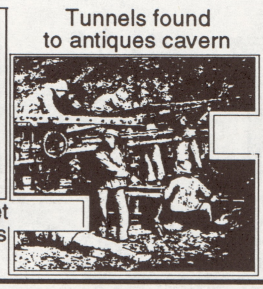
• In *A Tale of Two Townships*, Charlie Dickens noted, "It was the best of names; it was the worst of [continued overleaf...]

... *inside* the letters for the Yesterfesters...

Send your ideas to the editor before July 20. See the modest example at right and jump right in to your own visual revisionist history lesson! Send your *initial thoughts* and images to the editor for the August issue!







Township names

[continued from page one]

names..." when he dissected the schism between the Charter Townships of Superior and Ypsilanti. Those two cartographic cubes could simply merge — and keep that 'Charter Township Of...' intro as they gobble up tiny Ypsi City and call themselves **Superior Ypsilanti**. Or **Upper Ypsi** or even **Ypsi Heights**.

When Michigan's Upper Peninsula thought it might become a state other than a welfare state, one of their top name choices was Superior since they're on the top and right next to the lake of the same name. Another choice was Cloverland. It sings appropriately. Maybe the Township could go for **Grassland** or, better yet, **Crabgrassland**.

• Almost no place in New England is named for itself. If they didn't envy the histories of the places that kicked them out of Great Britain or Europe, they named themselves as *next door* to something; Upper- or Lower-Something-Or-Other. Lesser/minor/major Whatnot, New Someplace or simple compass readings were popular. **North Augusta**, **East Pittsfield**, **South Superior**, or **West VanBuren** might be cozy.

• Ypsi's even older name ideas might be resurrected for this project just to qualify them for a place in line for the annual Heritage Parade: **Waterville** (remember Ford Lake?) and **Woodruff's Grove**. A restaurant by that same name was able to take pretension to new heights, when compared to the original cluster of crude shacks from 1823.

Heritage, U.S.A? Naah. That's been taken by someone and we're too far into the midwest to even bother capitalizing 'heritage.'

• Perhaps the Township could hyphenate, as so many young moderns are doing to show respect for both - or all - of their parents. **Mrs. Henry Ypsilanti-Ford** sounds very country clubby and **GM-Ford** feels more so. Putting themselves up for legal adoption might be another choice, since so many places lack a decent tax base. Maybe Kalkaska wants them. **Lower Kalkaska** would take the Sister City concept to a new understanding.

• Ask Governor John Engler if 'Charter' Township is anything like 'Charter' Schools Maybe the Township could become a school. next. They certainly have a lot to learn. 'The Charter Academy of Ypsilanti' could have Nintendos, a short order drill team, and females enrollees, too!

If those Township road signs and truck-door-letters are accurate, their real name is 'The Charter Township of ...' as if they picked it up at the signing of the Magna Carta with King John in 1215. Perhaps our little kiosk signsdown by the depot should read 'Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town, a non-profit, tax-exempt incorporation of the State of Michigan.

• Other good choices for a new name for Ypsi Twp could be selected as capriciously as names on Ford Lake boat transoms: **The Ypsi Gypsy, Water Wonderland, Water Babies, Sea Deuce, Strip City, Lackazonia,** or (best of all) **Who Cares?**

• Or, in the style of pubescents who decide to forsake their lineage and change their self-image through an exotic new moniker, Rosetta-Sue Schwark called herself Tiffany Moonbeam just long enough to confuse all her teachers and take that grade over again. And then there were Morningstar, Storme, LaSquishda, and Mollye. (All former Mary Anns, if I remember correctly.) Borrow something really classy sounding like **Lake Tahoe, Gulfstream, Desert Springs,** or **Scottsdale**.

• Leftovers: Are there names that aren't used much any more but should be? What about some of these handles that we never hear any more: **Blanche, Myrtle, Hector, New York City, Tyrannosaurus Rex, Flint?**

• When he came to Roosevelt School to teach music for a year, he told us his home address in England and said we'd never be able to forget it because it was so poetic and had no numbers in it. He was right: Derek Hyde, Cowslip Cottage, Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury, Kent, England. Lovely, huh? So why doesn't the Township *really go for it* in their new ZIP and try for *all numbers*? **YpTwp 48197-0000** is as close as we can get. Very modern.

On another subject, but sort of related: How did Ypsilanti State Hospital ever get named after Ypsi? It's in Pittsfield Township, and much closer to Ann Arbor. Do they want to change their name, too?

For Sale or Lease:

Commercial building at 112 E. Cross.

3375 square feet. Finished office area. Rear loading dock. 400 amp, 208 volt, 3-phase electrical service.

Sale price: $109,000

Lease terms: $1499 per month + utilities

Broker: David L. Hamilton, Swisher Realty 208 East Washington, Ann Arbor, 663-0501, Fax: 313-663-0316

Poetry from our not-to-distant past:

Some of our readers remember Michigan poet Edgar A. Guest while others may only recognize his son, Bud, from his days on WJR radio. Still more may be reading Guest's homey homilies for the first time here in a piece taken from a full-page General Motors advertisement in the May 14, 1945 issue of *TIME* magazine...

Good Business

- Edgar A. Guest

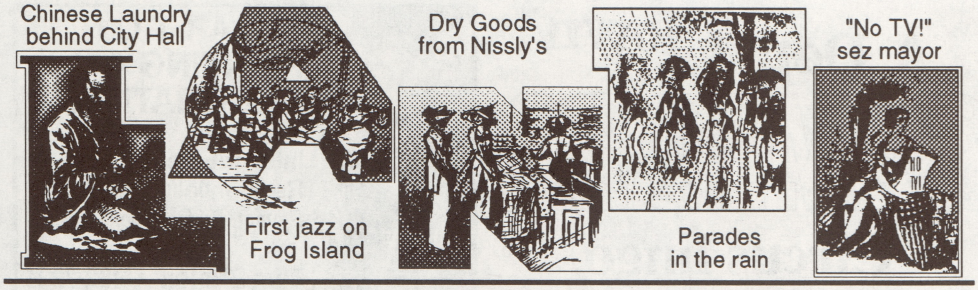
[from the book "Today and Tomorrow"]

If I possessed a shop or store,
I'd drive the grouches off my floor!
I'd never keep a boy or clerk...
With mental toothache at his work,
Nor let a man who draws my pay
Drive customers of mine away.

I'd treat the man who takes my time...
And spends a nickel or a dime
With courtesy, and make him feel
That I was pleased to close the deal,
Because tomorrow, who can tell?
He may want stuff I have to sell,
And in that case, then glad he'll be
To spend his dollars all with me.

The reason people pass one door...
To patronize another store,
Is not because the busier place ...
Has better silks, or gloves, or lace
Or special prices, but it lies ...
In pleasant words and smiling eyes;
The only difference, I believe,
Is in the treatment folks receive!

Thoughts for July:



Pancake Breakfast • Heritage Parade • Historic Home Tour
Ethnic Foods • Arts & Crafts • Chicken Dinner
Living History Encampment • Live Music • Spaghetti Dinner
Riverboat Casino • Antique Automobiles • Church Tours
Period Fashion Shows • Museum Open Houses • much more!

Getting ready for the Yesterfesters

They're painting the town *again*!

Fear and Loathing on the Festival Trail

...our annual rant about the *Big* August Event

Local motion: 'Tis the season to be handy. New awnings go up and more building trim gets painted on this block in this month than any other. Flowers are blooming up and down Cross and River Streets and we're getting ready for company.

More than a quarter million people will be 'discovering Depot Town' again the 18th, 19th, and 20th of August when the annual Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival unfolds itself right out in front, over in the back, in our two lovely parks, and all around these dynamic Depot Town businesses.

Mundane stuff like sidewalk sweeping and window washing go on all the time, but the extra onus of all that late-summer hype puts more energy into the commercial activity down here at that time, and some actually complain that there's "too much to handle" when the crowd comes down the street fifteen abreast and with no end in sight.

It's the biggest block party, ever, even bigger than the Michigan State Fair on those three days in August.

This year's theme is "Images of the Past," and Yesterfesters will be lining the sidewalks down here to see how we've carried this theme into our windows, displays, menus, special sale items, and other facets of creative and historical merchandising.

Depot Town reps, Judy Julie (**Renewed Interest Antiques**), Gwen Blackmer (**Depot Town Travel**), and David French (**Sidetrack Grill**) have been attending and reporting to DTA from the Festival Committee. Carolyn McKeever is in charge of this year's Heritage Kick-Off Party and developed the commemorative poster which evokes memories of 1930's tourist post cards of the area.

The Festival's sixteenth anniversary sees a different Depot Town from its first celebration and the two have been good for each other.

Ethel minds our gardens

Now you'll know who to thank for the gorgeous greenery and floral displays up and down these blocks. Ethel Pittman, who's lived in Depot Town for most of her adult life and now resides at Cross and Huron Streets, has been hired by the Depot Town Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to tend our bounteous blossoms. She's been contracted for sixteen weeks, beginning June 16, and is charged with weeding and watering all the planted material in the district.

Ethel is a graduate of EMU, and artist, a mom, and has been a worker at SOS Crisis Center during her years of tenure on this block.

The owners at Cady's Grill have dedicated storage space in their basement for the necessary tools, hoses, and gardening equipment related to the new job.

Ethel certainly won't mind sidewalkers' assistance but, at very least, let her know how much we all appreciate her ministrations in keeping our favorite places so pretty.

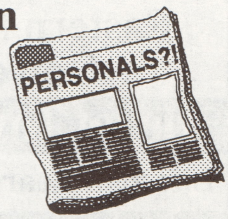
Events calendar:

Heritage Festival	- August 18, 19, 20
Fall Fair	- October
Festival of Lights	- Thksgvg-New Year's
Victorian Holiday	- December
New Year Jubilee	- New Year's Eve

Watch this space for further developments.

A a Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn
Your K-12 Connection
Teachers Shop
& LEARNING CENTER, LTD.
All materials for Classroom & Curricula
(313) 482-6373
15 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

New column suggested for big profit/loss solution



May's monthly meeting of the Depot Town Association saw enthusiastic endorsements of profit from 'personals ads' in this format. Sure. Send, them in; we'll print anything.

Here are some models to choose from:

•

SDNVGH seeking WP for GT. (Single, Divorced, Not-Very-Good-Housekeeper, seeking Wealthy Playboy for Good Times.)

Gemini: Try to spend more time with Pisces, avoid Feces. Get out on the other side of the bed on the cusp of that little throw rug, if you can.

•

***Lost* in Ypsilanti:**

Four stained glass windows originally designed for EMU's Starkweather Hall in 1897 [Maybe they'll turn up for this year's Heritage Fest church tour of windows].

Normal School organ from 1947 demolition [Organs are the theme of the 1996 YHF tour of churches].

Downtown's three-level fountain: one, each, for horses, people, and dogs. It stood on the corner by today's City Hall. Is the water still running?

MCRR depot, disappearing slowly but surely. Finally listed for sale!

•

***Found* in Ypsilanti:**

Original cast iron columns were there all along - under the cement blocks of the EMU Depot Town Center façade.

Civil War soldier's jacket between the walls of the Follett House third floor ballroom. Stories extra.

Charming, old commercial district down by the depot in Ypsi.

•

District Clearing House reactivated?

With forty businesses and an equal number of apartments available in the block, sometimes it seems as if every shop owner is asked about every rental unit - even though they're not connected. Perhaps it's time to start listing those available in this space again. It worked well for about ten years, but now nobody wants to move out. When the rents get too high you'll hear it here.

Send in your personal item, lost and found, or help wanted ad today. It's only a dollar a line! - T.Dodd, editor, 482-6371

• Two floors of fine antiques •
Judy & Roger Julie, proprietors
RENEWED INTEREST ANTIQUES
RIA
33 East Cross • 482-4525
In Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town

Northern Arrow then and now...

Bluewater Michigan Chapter

of the National Railway Historical Society

presents two fall rail tours:

Northern Arrow: Friday - Monday, September 1-4, 1995

Ann Arbor/Durand/Petoskey

• Here is your opportunity to spend an exceptional Labor Day weekend in Michigan's splendid Little Traverse Bay region. Climb aboard the ***Northern Arrow*** and you'll be transported in the style of a bygone era to one of our state's crown jewels at a single package price with options.

The ***Northern Arrow*** offers incomparable onboard dining, lounge service and coach seating as it carries you through towns, forests, farmlands, and some of Michigan's rare and valuable lakefront panoramas. Where the rails end, you step off in the heart of downtown Petoskey's unique Gaslight District, right across the street from the beautifully restored Perry Hotel.

Board the ***Northern Arrow*** on Friday morning in Ann Arbor for the scenic and historic run up the Lower Peninsula via the Ann Arbor Railroad and the Tuscola & Saginaw Bay Railway's sections of the former Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids & Indiana lines to Petoskey. The journey will take us through Whitmore Lake, Durand, Mt. Pleasant, along the shores of Lake George and Fife Lake, and through Mancelona, Elmira and Boyne Falls. Upon arrival at the former GR&I (Pennsylvania) station site, Perry Hotel patrons will stroll across the gas-lit street to their destinations, while buses carry passengers to the Bay View Inn and Holiday Inn.

The rail line that once carried resorters beyond Petoskey to Alanson, Pellston and Mackinaw City are gone now. So is the old mid-state line from Gaylord to the Straits. But on the ***Northern Arrow***, you still can travel in style to the foot of Little Traverse Bay — one time only in 1995.

[Holiday Inn packages $295 - $355; Stafford's Perry Hotel packages $385 - $395; Staffords' Bay View Inn packages $475 - $575]

Cherry Capital Limited

Friday - Sunday, September 22 - 24, 1995

Royal Oak/Birmingham/Durand — Traverse City

• When the first train rolled into Traverse City on the evening of Nov. 15, 1872, the enthusiastic banner headline in the *Grand Traverse Herald* shouted, "Out of the Wilderness!" Michigan's gem on the bay, hitherto reachable only by water and a tenuous stagecoach line, soon was sending carloads of lumber, peaches, pears and, yes, cherries south to the hungry and growing markets of Grand Rapids, Detroit and Chicago. And from those cities, "resort specials" brought thousands of summer visitors along the route of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad (GR&I).

In the course of nearly a century and a quarter, the Grand Traverse area has come to symbolize bountiful orchards, award-winning wineries, magical musical instruments, historical lighthouses, live entertainment and now, casino gambling.

Yet, the most enduring attraction to beckon the downstate visitor has remained the vastness of Michigan's northwoods. The rail line which popularized the area in the last century is still in place today, though now the exclusive province of freight train engineer and crew. So too are the miles of unspoiled rivers and stream as uniquely appreciated from a railroad perspective. It is to the visitor who finds refreshment in nature and who savors tradition, that Bluewater Michigan Chapter proudly dedicates this special run of the ***Cherry Capital Limited.***

[Rail/Inn packages $299; Rail/Inn Premium packages $399]

- **Group Fares (810)399-7963, phone orders (800) 594-5162**
- **Bluewater Michigan Chapter, NRHS, P.O. Box 296, Royal Oak, MI 48068-0296**

Come see what Nature sent us this month . . .

Ypsi Food Co-op

Sun 12-5; M,T,Th,F 10-8; Wed. 10-9; Sat. 9-8

312 N. RIVER ST. 483-1520

Summer's Here!

HANSEN'S STANDARD PRINTING

35 E. Cross Street • Ypsilanti, Michigan

(313) 483-0339

Have a Safe and Happy Vacation!

Depot Town Association, Inc.

minutes of 15 June 1995

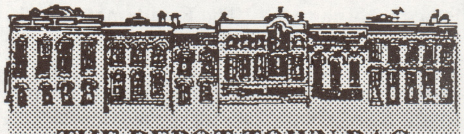
- **Minutes of May** approved as published.
- **Treasury report approved** as reported. Treasurer to check into quotes for property/liability insurance.
- **DDA:** The report of recent DDA meetings confirms plans for new benches in Depot Town. Three are being ordered. Decorative street banners are also in the works. The Depot Town gardener, Ethel Pitman, will be employed to weed and water the plantings in the area. (Be sure to let Ethel know you appreciate her hard work.)
- **Events:** Final plans are being arranged in readiness for the Frog Island Music Festival. Heritage Festival is coming fast as well. Linda Bowen will be in charge of booking vendors for Depot Town's street. Once again, a full stage with bleachers will be at the east end of Depot Town.

New Business

- **A reunion** of Depot Towners is being planned for some time in the fall of this year. To volunteer or give suggestions, see Linda French at Sidetrack.
- **Depot Town meeting times** have been changed from 7:30 P.M. to 6 P.M. to make it more convenient. Please not the time change on your daily planners. The next two meetings of the DTA will not be on their normal third Thursday slots. Again please note: July 27 and August 10 are the next two meetings.

Unfinished Business:

- **The Depot Town brochure** is still being fine-tuned. A lot of time and effort has been spent by many. There are two different brochures which will be examined at the next DTA meeting.
- **Next meeting** to be held 27 July 1995 at 6 P.M. at Renewed Interest Antiques.
- **Best Yet Award** goes to Linda French for volunteering to arrange Depot Town's 20th reunion.
- **Golden Goose** awarded to the city for its $35 sidewalk fee to Depot Town's merchants during Heritage Festival.



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Tom Steele, president
P.O. Box 970-235
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197-0804

The Depot Town Rag
Tom Dodd, editor
1680 Cliffs Landing
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198-7305

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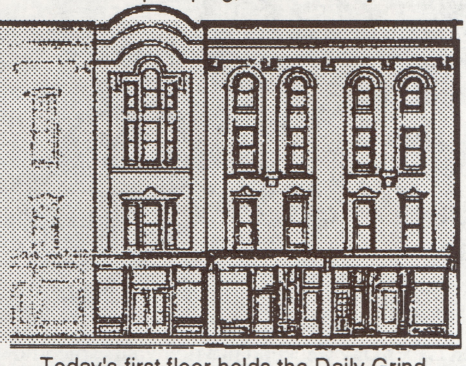
Let them know *you* appreciate *their* support.

District's hotel history traced *(to Indian football)*

[Most of today's Depot Towners knew the address as the Follett House, but recent information indicates the original business there was the Huron Hotel. In that space occupied today by the the Daily Grind coffee shop, Depot Doo Hair and Tanning Salon, and numerous apartments on the upper floors, many new facts have been unearthed and will be recounted here, thanks to James Thomas Mann's discovery in another of his archive ramblings. Every effort has been made to avoid the 'spell-checker' in order to maintain the flavor of the original article, ie. "dinning rooms," "gentilmen," "divise," " seldame," "concidieable attance" to the "plumping," and others.]

From the *Ypsilanti Herald*, Saturday, July 2, 1859

Opening of the Huron Hotel



Today's first floor holds the Daily Grind Coffee Shop at 21 East Cross, and the Depot Doo at 23-25 East Cross. The portion to the west was added later.

On Monday, the 4th of July, the Huron Hotel in this city, will be opened to the public for the first time, under the direction of Mr. John Davis, formerly of the Sovill House, Waterbury, Conn. This house in its furnishings and appointments is second to no house in the State outside of Detroit; and in matters of convenience and comfort is surpassed by none. Every room in the house is supplied with gas; the furniture is of the best kind' ventilators are arranged over the doors, which, by a very simple contrivance are easily managed; there is a bell to each room, and on every landing a speaking tube; in fact, an air of solid comfort pervades every apartment.

The office, Reading-room, Wash-room, Coat-room, Barber Shop, Saloon and Porter's Lodge, are on the first floor. Ascending to the second floor by a broad flight of stairs, on the left hand we have the Dinning-room which is 50 feet by 23, and capable of comfortably seating at table 125 persons. The first room to our right hand is the Gentlemen's Parlor, a fine room, and handsomely furnished. Adjoining this are two parlors (thrown into one) for ladies, which are furnished magnificently. There are six other rooms on this floor, fitted up for sleeping apartments. These rooms are designed for families, and the furniture in them is elegant. On this floor is a connection with Huron Hall, making it very convenient for concert performers %c. A passage way directly opposite the stairs of the Ladies Entrance conducts us to the water closets, and ladies bathing room. The Gentlemen's bathing room is on the ground floor. From the Dinning-room we pass to the carving-room and pantry, and thenas to the Kitchen, Pastry-room, Store-room, Laundry, Pantries &c, all of which are supplied with hot and cold water; indeed, everything in this department is arranged in the most convenient way that experience could divvies.

On the third floor are twenty-two rooms, three of the bedrooms have parlors attached, and five are furnished same style as those on the floor below. The halls are wide and spacious, thus insuring a free circulation of air, the lack of which is an inconvenience so often experienced in large city hotels.

On the fourth floor there are twelve bedrooms, all furnished in a tasty manner, the smallest of which is 20 feet by 9. One peculiarity in that house, not to be found in any other hotel in the State, is the bedstands all have spring bottoms. This is a new thing under the sun in hotel furniture, and a good thing it is too.

The Huron House was built (from plans furnished by Messrs. Jordan & Anderson of Detroit), by Messers. B. Follett, M. Norris, I.G. Corklin, M.L. Shutts, and others; and the ground was first broken toward the erection on the 14th of October last. It is now finished - complete in every department. The building is four stories in height, is of brick, cost in the neighborhood of $20,000, rears up a very imposing front on Cross st. and is one of the "institutions" of Ypsilanti, ie., the "Normal," "Union School," and "Huron Hotel." The mason work of the main building and kitchen addition, which is of the most substantial kind, was all done by the day, under the supervision of Mr. Heames of Detroit; the carpenter and joiner work of the main building by Messers Flower & Hand of this city, and reflects great credit upon these gentilmen. We think we have saldame seen such fruitful work done by contract as given by this firm on this job: and that of the kitchen addition by McDuff & Mitchell of Detroit, who have, as thay always do, performed their contract in a work man like manner; the plastering (which deserves more than a passing notice) by James Boyd of Detroit. On the second floor there is around each room a handsome cornice, and some of the rooms have centre pieces of elaborate workmanship, those in the parlors especially attract concideiable attance. The plumping was done by Dudley & Holmes, of the same city, by these skillful workmen, Mr. McIntryre, who we believe in this case even excelled himself, the gas fittings by D. Showerman & Co. of Ypsilanti, the bell hanging and speaking tubes by Mr. Duncan of Detroit; the painting by Charles W. Day of this city; the cabinet furniture is from the ware rooms of Marcus Stivens and S.D. Guggs & Co. of Detroit, and Messers Coon & Kame of this city; the mirrors from A. Elder, of Detroit, the carpets from the store of Yost, Tisdale & Co. of this place; the iron work from the Ypsilanti City Foundry of Shutts & Ferrier; and the hardware from M.N. Littlefield of this city.

The water arrangement deserve special notice and are seldom seen in hotels out of our large cities. We have already noticed that the pantries, Kitchen, Pastry Room and Laundry are supplied with both hot and cold water rendering every desirable convenience for the working part of the establishment. We find the bath rooms supplied with all the facilities for enjoying hot and cold baths. There is also on each floor of the main building a sufficient supply for the use of the rooms, which, with the gentilman's washroom on the first floor, is supplied from a tank in the forth story. The Bar-room is also supplied with pure spring water, which is forced into a reservoir in the room adjoining, and thence led into the bar by a pipe which is concealed in an ice-box beneath the counter, and then passes up through the counter, thus furnishing a constant supply of cold water.

The Huron House as it now stands is a pride to our city, and a credit to its builders. It is in every sense of the word a first-class hotel, and we have no hesitation in saying it will be kept in a first class manner. A good hotel - one that could be recommended to friends also - has long been desideratum in our city. At last that desire is about to be gratified, and we prophecy for the "Huron House," a high position in the estimation of the traveling public.

The Huron House will be thrown open this (Saturday) afternoon and evening, for the inspecting public.

[The kitchen portion of the building was to the rear, in what is now the Market Plaza area, and the portion containing the ballroom - including and above today's Remington/Walker Design Associates - was added still later.]

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A Depot Town SAMPLER

Circus lingo lingers here

There's no plan for a Real Live Circus to be in the neighborhood this summer, but there's plenty left over from their previous visits. Nineteenth century tours of Depot Town by Buffalo Bill's Wild West Shows, General Tom Thumb's appearance, and the more recent stops of the Franzen Brothers' Circus on Frog Island thrilled us locals with animal acts, freak shows, acrobats, oddities, and some of the best fertilizer the local garden club has ever spread on the depot's gardens in old Ypsi.

But lasting even beyond the exotic acts and odors of those performers is the language they left here on the block. Here's a sampling of what P.T. Barnum and his followers left in rail towns across America:

• **"Hold your horses"** - the popular cry when the elephants came off the train and began hoisting the tent poles or leading the parade through town. Carriages and wagons were warned to pull over and drop their reins since the horses might spook at such exotic four-legged rivals invading their domain.

• **"Jumbo"** today is used to describe shrimp (oxymoron?) or mortgages, but it was Phineas Taylor Barnun's own invention for the name of his "giant African elephant." Disney's Dumbo was a derivation of the name.

• **"Throw your hat into the ring"** now denotes willingness to run for nomination to something but, in Barnum's shows, it meant that you were committed to the company.

• **"Get the show on the road"** indicated the troupe was getting ready to board the train again and leave for the next town where they were booked.

• **"Grandstanding"** in circus parlance denoted playing to the audience. Buffalo Bill Cody was often accused of the trait, and he even encouraged Chief Sitting Bull to ham it up alongside Annie Oakley and Calamity Jane.

• **"Three-Ring Circus"** now is used to describe any wild and imaginative happening, but Barnum's invention merely expanded the contemporary medium - times three - to exploit his enterprise into "The Greatest Show on Earth."

Barnum was later mayor of Bridgeport, Connecticut. What municipality could not benefit from such hoopla in their favor? And there's a little of that which has spilled over along the rail lines across the country... even in old Ypsilanti.

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